

Yesterday, the Illinois House of Representatives passed a statewide smoking ban for public places. If signed into law, Illinois would be the 19th state to pass such a measure.

All people have the right to work in an environment free from the dangers of second-hand smoke. Illinois currently receives an "F" grade from the American Lung Association when judged by its "smoke-free air" criteria. This bill will go a long way to changing that score.

At the federal level, we need to pass H.R. 1108, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services, through the Federal Drug Administration, to regulate tobacco products in the U.S. It's time we start treating tobacco for what it is - a drug.